Research being made—1938

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Columbia S. C. Record
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Two Swedes Here to Study S. C. Social, Economic Life

Two men from Sweden were in Columbia today, brimming over with questions designed to inform them about social and economic conditions in the South.

They visited the state department of labor and the state department of education. Later they were to talk with Dr. Josiah Morse, of the University of South Carolina, and to visit the state negro college at Orangeburg.

The men are Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, professor of economics and finance at the University of Stockholm, and Dr. Richard Sterner, a member of the social board of Sweden. Accompanying them on their tour of the South is Dr. Jackson Davis, of the general education board, of New York.

Dr. Myrdal spent some time interrogating G. H. Lucas, of the department of labor, while Dr. Sterner was questioning James H. Hope state superintendent of education.

Dr. Myrdal smilingly explained when questioned by reporters, tha they were here to obtain informa tion rather than to give it, and pro ceded to apply questions to the re porters as well as to Mr. Lucas.

Pleasant, he was, but in a tre mendous hurry, but he did say:

"We have enjoyed the South, particularly for its forests. They are beautiful. We hope, in our studies in this section, to obtain much valuable information."

Then pleasant, youngish Dr. Myrdal, who speaks excellent English and is not a characteristic Scandanavian blonde, said good-bye with a hearty handshake and he and Dr. Sterner were led by Dr. Davis in the direction of the university, where they were to see Dr. Morse, who is professor of philosophy and psychology.

Both had been to America before, but neither had visited the South.

Research Projects Uncover Hidden Facts On The Negro

Urban League Leads Field In Sponsoring WPA

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—Interviews with ex-slaves and studies of the Negro in business and industry are included in the mass of information already made available by the research projects of the WPA engaged in unearthing many little known facts on the economic, social and historic life of the American Negro.

Through these projects the dual purpose is achieved of meeting a public need for more information about the Negro and of providing thousands of job opportunities for capable professional and technical workers who otherwise would be unemployed, officials said.

LEAGUE LEADS FIELD

Among the agencies sponsoring WPA research projects directly related to the Negro, the National Urban league leads the field of Negro sponsors. This organization has five projects to its credit. The Pittsburgh branch of the league has made two series of studies of the Negro in the iron and steel industries at Pittsburgh and in near-by manufacturing communities.

Two other studies undertaken by the Urban league with WPA aid are those of the Seattle, Washington, branch, entitled "Negroes in Seattle" and "Seattle—the Negro Follows the Pioneer." The Newark, N. J., branch is co-sponsoring with the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies, a study entitled "The Negro in Industry, Utilities, Commerce and Public Service in New Jersey, 1934."

Four Negro institutions of higher learning are responsible for six research projects giving employment to trained investigators, interviewers, statisticians and other qualified professional and technical workers.

SPONSORS THREE

Houston college in Texas, is sponsoring three studies—a business directory and church survey of Houston, a report of Negro youth not in school, and "A Follow-up Study of 1936 Graduates of the Houston High Schools and a Study of Occupational Desires of 156 Seniors."

Interviews with ex-slaves have been compiled by Kentucky State Industrial college at Frankfort. This work gives a history of the experience of former slaves before the Civil war and during the period of reconstruction. Besides preserving first-hand information on the life and times of former slaves, it makes available for writers and dramatists a rich store of authentic folk material.

At Bordentown, N. J., the manual training school is sponsoring a state-wide survey of business enterprises operated by Negroes. A study of the supply of, and demand for, Negro teachers in Missouri schools is being made by Lincoln university at Jefferson City. Other institutions of learning sponsoring important studies of the Negro include the Universities of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

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Colleges Aid In Supplying Technicians

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The studies undertaken at these institutions include: industrial home work; detailed studies of the numbers, characteristics and distribution of all Negro and Mexican children brought to the Chicago Juvenile Court since 1936; an analysis of occupational opportunities among 10,477 employed in 750 industrial plants in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; early explorations in Oklahoma, and a survey of the economic status of Tennessee Negro families.

In Los Angeles county two research projects are shedding light upon hidden facts on the Negro. One gives a historical resume of the role played by the race in the development of the city of Los Angeles; the other is making a survey of white-collar and skilled Negro labor in Los Angeles County during the years 1935 and 1936.

500 FAMILIES STUDIED

The Delaware County Tuberculosis Association has completed a study of living conditions of 500 Negro families in Chester, Pa. Other health studies bearing upon the incidence of tuberclosis among colored citizens are sponsored by health departments in Washington, D. C., at San Francisco, California, and New York City.

The country's 900,000 Negro farmers will be interested in the WPA survey of agricultural labor in Todd County, Ky., and Concordia Parish, La. The Farm Security Administration and the Department of Agriculture are sponsoring these projects. Other Federal agencies acting as sponsors include the United States Housing Authority, the Department of Interior's Office of Education, and the National Youth Administration.

Negro in Math To Be Studied By Arkansas Students

LITTLE ROCK,—(A N P)—The mathematics students of Dunbar High school here organized Friday for a research study of the Negro in mathematics under the supervision of Miss L. M. Weaver, teacher of mathematics. Efforts are being made to contact all leading universities and colleges asking for the names of Negroes who have attained or are working for the Ph. D. and master's degrees. As far as possible the Negroes themselves will be interviewed through correspondence.

When the research which is to be continuous is well underway, a booklet will be published and issued to schools throughout the country.

Any person who has attained an advanced degree in mathematics is asked to contact Miss L. M. Weaver at Dunbar High School, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Research being made - 1938

Southern Economic Association.

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Unusual activity in the Southern labor movement, as seen by Dr. de Vyver, rests in several causes: (1) The national labor relations act, which he said has been "of extreme importance in organizing activities since it was upheld by the Supreme Court;" (2) "A section of the Wagner act condemns refusal to bargain collectively as an unfair labor practice. The Southern worker is being shown that a union is more than a temporary weapon of rebellion, that it is also a normal method of negotiating through organization and collective bargaining;" (3) competition between the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization, has necessitated much activity, and the South is a fertile field for organization.

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Dr. H. H. Chapman, of the University of Alabama, speaking on "Efficiency of Labor in the South," contended that hot weather in the South, while contributing to conditions favorable to diseases and to slowing down of the human being, was not of considerable importance. "The problem can be controlled," he said

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